Concordia University
Faculty of Fine Arts Council
Minutes of the Meeting of April 23, 2004

Present: C. Jackson (Chair); J. Bélisle, E. Bernatchez, S. Bolton, M. Corwin, R. Cross, D. Elliott, B. Foss, N. Gaudreau, N. Jirku, W. Krol, P. Langdon, C. MacKenzie, R. Mountain, D. Pariser, E. Pearlman, K. Perry, K. Raudsepp, A. Reaume, M. Reinhart, T. Stathopoulos

Absent with apologies: L. Adams, A. Cappelluto, A. Fargnoli, E. Little, R. Maule, M. Montanaro

Guests: K. Adams, B. Black, J.-P. Duchesne, R. Richman Kenneally

1. Appointments to Fine Arts Faculty Council (FFAC-03-11-28-D4)

MOTION: (Bélisle, Krol)

"that the following appointments to Fine Arts Faculty Council be approved:

Department Representatives (1 year terms):

M. Corwin, Department of Music

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Krol, Pariser)

"that the agenda for the meeting be approved."

CARRIED

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of November 28, 2003

MOTION: (Stathopoulos, Elliott)

"that the minutes of the meetng of November 28, 2003 be approved."

CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

The Dean announced that the IMCA curriculum change, approved at the last Council meeting, had passed Senate and would soon be implemented.

5. Chair's Remarks

The Dean made the following remarks:

- SSHRC's new Creative Artist program was far more popular than SSHRC had anticipated, resulting in a 13% success rate. Of the applicants from Concordia, two grants were rewarded to professors in Communications Studies and one to Fine Arts (J. Berzowska, Design Art). SSHRC reassessed and granted another award to C. Kolak Dudek (Studio Arts).

- Recently retired and soon-to-be retiring Chairs, Mark Corwin (Music), Catherine MacKenzie (Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema), and Paul Langdon (Art Education), were thanked for their contributions to Fine Arts Faculty Council.

- Due to the cancellations of the last three Council meetings, Council members had been polled regarding a student case. Associate Dean Foss presented the result of the poll: Council had unanimously voted to support the request to allow the student to graduate.

- There are many changes afoot in the Senior Administration: the Board of Governors have a new executive, there will be a search for a new Dean of Fine Arts, as well as a new Rector; and Dr. Singer has been selected as the new Provost.

- Delays with the new building have been due to cost overruns. We are on-track and plan to open in the late Spring/early Summer 2005, with classes ready for September 2005. The exterior and first storey will soon be outfitted and finished.

- The government funding formula has become very creative and is again under review. Under the newly proposed weightings scheme, the University would lose substantial amounts of funding. While these proposals are still under review, it is clear that 2004-2005 will be the last year for the present funding formula, which provides full funding for each FTE (full time equivalence).

- As a result, the Dean has been encouraging departments to accept as many students as possible, to put on large-capacity courses (60+), and to add FTE's. C. MacKenzie reported that in a recent meeting with Film Studies faculty, 19 additional admissions were released. She wished to have it on record that programs are taking on more students due to budgetary constraints. E. Pearlman asked whether studio classes would be affected. The Dean responded that they

would not; that the large classes, in effect, pay for the smaller classes. J. Bélisle commented that quality suffers with large classes. Associate Dean Foss is overseeing Fine Arts courses for non-Fine Arts students, which are designed as large-capacity classes.

- The Fine Arts Advisory Board is sponsoring a fundraiser on May 19th. Associate Dean Perry gave a brief synopsis of the evening. It will be the premiere of Kit Brennan's play at the Centaur. There will be a silent auction of artwork by several alumni, among others. Tickets are now on sale.

- Art Matters was very successful this year.

- The new Communications/Special Projects Advisor is Ms. Lina Uberti, formerly of the Saidye Bronfman Centre. In addition to managing the Faculty's communications portfolio/strategy, she will be taking over the coordination of the Advisory Board.

6. Question Period

D. Elliott requested information on the status of the art galleries in the new building, in view of the cost overruns. The Dean responded that one gallery has been assigned to Fine Arts. The fate of the other two is in question. Galleries are still a possibility, but in view of the cost overruns and the lucrative retail potential the space represents, it might be difficult to argue for more gallery space. E. Pearlman requested information on who had control over the possible retail space. The Dean replied that this question been discussed widely. There is much concern over who will decide on which retailers are selected.

7. Departmental Status for Creative Arts Therapies (FFAC-04-04-23-D1)

As no representative of the Creative Arts Therapies program was in attendance, the Dean gave a brief overview of the history of the Department of Art Education & Art Therapy before turning the floor over to P. Langdon. Although one department, the two have been functioning as separate units for 15-16 years. Each has grown significantly. A motion to departmentalize, if passed, would go through Senate, then to the Board of Governors.

C. MacKenzie asked that it be recorded in the minutes that the request runs opposite to the trend of merging smaller units. T. Stathopoulos mentioned that the proposal does not include a name for the potential new unit, nor an implementation date. M. Corwin questioned the statement regarding the department not requiring new resources. Since Art Education and the Creative Arts Therapies program have been functioning autonomously for so many years, the statement was correct. D. Elliott asked whether there were other universities with similar programs that could serve as a model. There are none. R. Mountain stated that a Music Therapy option would make more sense in a department of Creative Arts Therapies, since Art Education focuses on Visual Arts Education. D. Pariser spoke to differences in training – Art Education does not train therapists.

MOTION: (Langdon, Pariser)

'"that the Creative Arts Therapies program within the Department of Art Education & Art Therapy be given independent status and that two new departments be established, effective June 1, 2004. The departments will be named Art Education, and Creative Arts Therapies."

CARRIED

8. Distinguished Teaching Awards

Associate Dean Foss announced that the Distinguished Teaching Award for Full-time faculty will be presented to Ted Little (Theatre); the award for Part-time faculty is under discussion.

9. Appointment to Evaluation Committee for Vice-Rector, Services (FFAC-04-04-23-D2)

MOTION: (Langdon, Corwin)

"that the following appointment to the Evaluation Committee for Vice-Rector, Services be approved:

W. Krol, Department of Studio Arts

CARRIED

C. MacKenzie stated that the representative to Search/Evaluation Committees for Senior Administration should not necessarily be from the Dean's Office. She did not want this to become precedent for a policy.

10. Appointments to Elections Committee for FPTC (FFAC-04-04-23-D3)

Associate Dean Perry announced that a third nominee, from the Performing Arts, had been found for the committee.

MOTION: (Perry, Langdon)

"that the following persons be appointed to the Elections Committee for FPTC:

A. Fairchild, Department of Art Education
M. Falsetto, Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema
R. Ellias, Department of Music

CARRIED

11. Adjournment

MOTION: (Stathopoulos, Pariser)

"that the meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

J. De Bellefeuille
April 23, 2004